

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01685 161427Z

54

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 AID-05 IO-10 SAB-01 EB-07 /095 W

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R 161340Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2789

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IZ, CU, KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI VIEWS ON MIDEAST AREA DEVELOPMENTS-CUBA

SUMMARY: KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD EXPRESSED STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF SECRETARY'S CONTINUED EFFORTS ACHIEVE MID-EAST SETTLEMENT AND OPINED REAL ROAD TO FINAL SETTLEMENT WAS THROUGH WASHINGTON, NOT GENEVA. KUWAIT'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH IRAQ REMAINED VEXING PROBLEM, BUT IRAQI-IRANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT REDUCED IRAQI RATIONALE REGARDING NEED FOR NORTHERN KUWAITI TERRITORY AS DEFENSE AGAINST IRAN. FONMIN PREDICTED IRAQIS WOULD SOON SEEK TO REESTABLISH DIPLOMAT RELATIONS WITH US. HE MOURNED LOSS OF KING FAISAL, BUT HE FORESAW QUICKENED

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SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01685 161427Z

SOCIAL AND PLITICAL ADVANCES IN SAUDI ARABIA AND SPOKE APPROV-

INGLY OF LATEST SAUDI FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS WHICH HE CONSIDERED POSITIVE AND FORWARD LOOKING. FONMIN SABAH SAID IN CONVERSATION RECENTLY IN HAVANA HE FOUND CASTRO RELAXED AND REASONABLY FAVORABLE TOWARD US BUT THAT HE APPARENTLY DID NOT ENVISAGE EARLY RESUMPTION OF US-CUBAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD SAW ME APRIL 14 AT MY REQUEST FOR GENERAL CHAT PRIOR TO MY RETURN TO US FOR CONSULTATIONS AND LEAVE. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS REMARKS.

2. ARAB-ISRAEL. FONMIN SAID GOK FULLY APPRECIATED WHAT SECRETARY HAD DONE AND WAS CONTINUING DO HIS UTMOST BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST PROBLEM. WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR HIM, HE SAID. KUWAITIS WELL AWARE OF WHOSE FAULT IT WAS (I.E. ISRAEL) THAT KISSINGER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACHIEVE FURTHER WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO AREA. PERSONALLY, FONMIN SAID, HE HAD NO FAITH THAT ANYTING WOULD COME OUT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, US SHOULD BY ALL MEANS CONTINUE ITS OWN EFFORTS WHICH ONLY ROUTE THAT REALLY LIKELY LEAD TO SETTLEMENT.

3. FONMIN OBSERVED THAT IN HIS ACTIONS AND POLICIES, SADAT FOLLOWING VERY WISE COURSE BUT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS, WERE EQUALLY VITAL PLAYERS IN THE GAME. SABAH URGED USG TO INITIATE TOP LEVEL CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS SOONEST. NOW IS THE TIME, HE SAID. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED KUWAIT'S TRADITIONAL ROLE IN PROVIDING LARGE NUMBERS OF PALESTINIANS WITH INCOMES AND PLACE TO LIVE IN KUWAIT, AS WELL AS SUPPORTING PALESTINIAN CAUSE; AND HE SAID GOK PREPARED TO EXERT ITS INFLUENCE OPENLY WITH PALESTINIANS IN DIRECTION OVERALL JUST SETTLEMENT ONCE USG WAS ALSO OPENLY DEALING WITH THEM. WE WOULD LIKE HELP, BUT WE WILL NOT DO SO SECRETLY, FONMIN SAID. SABAH WAS ALSO EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN LEBANON.

4. IRAQ. REGARDING IRAQ-KUWAIT BORDER DISPUTE, FONMIN SAID THERE WERE NO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. SITUATION QUIET AT PRESENT BUT OF COURSE PROBLEM REMAINED. FONMIN WAS PLEASED TO NOTE IRAQIS HAD TAKEN WATER DISPUTE WITH SYRIA TO ARAB LEAGUE, WHICH WAS USEFUL PRECEDENT. AS A RESULT, IRAQIS WOULD SCARCELY BE IN SECRET

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01685 161427Z

POSITION TO COMPLAIN IF KUWAIT FELT CONSTRAINED AT SOME POINT TO REFER BORDER PROBLEM TO ARAB LEAGUE ALOS. MOREOVER, FONMIN ASSERTED, IRAQIS' RAPPROCHEMENT WITH IRANIANS WOULD APPEAR TO OBIVIATE THEIR CONTENTION THAT THEY NEEDED KUWAITI TERRITORY IN NORTH ON GULF TO IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSES AGAINST IRAN. SABAH SAID HE PUT NO SPECIAL STOCK IN EITHER SADAT'S OR BOUMEDIENNE'S REPORTED OFFERS TO ASSIST IN RESOLUTION OF IRAQI-KUWAITI FRONTIER.

5. I TOLD FONMIN I PLANNED TO VISIT BAGHDAD SHORTLY. HE REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. HE PREDICTED IRAQ WOULD SOON SEEK RENENWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US -- A DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE WHOLE REGION. AS I DID ONCE BEFOE, I EMPHASIZED MY VISIT WAS PERSONAL ONE AND I NOT RPT NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS RENEWAL OF US-IRAQI RELATIONS. USG DID NOT INTEND CHASE AFTER IRAQIS. SABAH SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT VISIT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE USEFUL.

6. SAUDI ARABIA. FONMIN SAID DEATH OF KING FAISAL WAS TRE-MENDOUS LOSS TO WHOLE ARAB WORLD. HE PROPUNDED CONVENTIONAL LINE THAT REAL POWER WOULD REST WITH FAHD, BUT HE THOUGHT AMIR ABDULLA COULD PROVE TROUBLESOME AND WAS A MAN TO WATCH. SABAH BELIEVED POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROGRESS WITHIN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COME VERY PROMPTLY BUT WAS NOW CLEARLY ON THE HORIZON. SABAH RECALLED AMIR SALMAN (GOV OF RIYADH) HAD ONCE REMARKED THAT FAISAL WAS FULLY ABSORBED WITH INTERNATIONAL AFFIARS AND WAS UNABLE TO DEVOTE THE NECESSARY ATTENTION TO INTERNAL ISSUES. SABAH THOUGHT THIS REGOGNITION THAT INTERNAL REFORMS WERE OVERDUE HAD BEEN NICELY PUT. FONMIN SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF LATEST SAUDI FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS WHICH HE CONSIDERED POSITIVE AND FORWARD LOOKING, PARTICULARLY REGARDING SOUTH YEMEN.

7. CUBA. FONMIN SAID HE EXPECTED RESIDENT CUBAN AMB WOULD EVENTUALLY BE POSTED TO KUWAIT, ALTHOUGH NO DATE YET SET. SABAH SAID DURING LONG LUNCHEON HE HAD RECENTLY IN HAVANA WITH CASTRO HE HAD ASKED ABOUT CUBAN RELATIONS WITH US. SABAH FOUND CASTRO HAD RELAXED AND GENERALLY FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD US BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT ENVISAGE EARLY RESUMPTION OF FORMAL US-CUBAN RELATIONS. STOLTZFUS

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